

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, November 27, 2012

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Christmas Extravaganza ready to roll

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point is once again ready to roll out the red carpet for the Christmas season, as the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Christmas Extravaganza this Friday.

Elk Point merchants are set for the big day with extended hours and seasonal specials for the shoppers, who can enter with a purchase at many of the businesses to win door prizes valued at \$50 or more. Door prize slips deposited at participating businesses during the day will go into the big barrel for the 9:30 p.m. draw for major prizes, including a deepfreeze with food vouchers or one of five gift certificates for chamber member businesses.

The Winter Wonderland Parade is back, after a one-year break, and indications are that it may be one of the best in the history of this attraction. The parade follows the same route as the Canada Day parade, and will head north up Main Street at 6 p.m.

Following the parade, tractor-drawn wagon rides will tour the town, starting at the Elk Point Visitor Information EcoCentre. Other events are also planned for the south end of Main Street Friday evening, with the Trail Riders Snowmobile Club serving hot chocolate and snacks near their log cabin, the Elk Point Community Lions collecting donations for Santas Anonymous at the EcoCentre, and the Elk Point division of Prairie EMS inviting everyone to stop by for a tour of their handsome new facility, with popcorn for the kids and Sparkles the Clown on hand to entertain them with her balloon animals.

Santa Claus will be stationed at the Seniors' Recreation Centre both before and after the parade for photos with the children. The centre is also this year's location for a craft and trade show and art exhibition, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Elk Point Outreach School is offering a movie night, complete with babysitting and snacks, for the little ones throughout the evening.

A fabulous fireworks finale is planned to end the evening at 10 p.m., and returns to the downtown area, south of Railway Avenue.



Diane Dewan photo

Elementary students help pack Santa's bags

Elk Point Elementary School students Nicholas Jess and Tyson Gadwa help pack up 82 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes packed with toys, school supplies, personal items and good wishes for youngsters in less fortunate countries, sent off last week by the school's students and staff.

Alternate transportation concept unlikely to work here, volunteer drivers say

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A project aimed at creating sustainable, responsive alternative transportation for seniors in rural Alberta "is not going to work for us," agreed three volunteer drivers who routinely transport seniors to medical appointments in Edmonton and other communities.

The opportunity to apply for an Alberta Transportation Services for Seniors pilot project had been forwarded to Elk Point FCSS, and topped the agenda at last week's Interagency Health Committee meeting.

"It has come to our attention that we do have seniors that need transportation," IHC chair Margaret Modin e said. "Is there something we could initiate? The seniors (organization) doesn't have money we could commit to a program," she added, noting that Elk Point has a handicapped-accessible handi-bus, with two volunteers over the time it has been in operation.

Volunteer Ron Fraess is one of those drivers, while Laverne Wilson and Parrish Tung voluntarily drive seniors to appointments in their own vehicles, noting that there is very little parking available at most of their destinations that would accommodate the bus. Wilson and Tung are

reimbursed for their gas and parking costs with funding from the Heritage Lodge Auxiliary.

Parking is not the only problem, Tung said. "You can't just drop them off and drive away. You have to go in with them." All three prefer to have a friend or relative accompany the patient.

Auxiliary member Diana Anderson agreed that the handi-bus is hard to park, "very costly to run for an individual appointment, and it's a huge challenge to coordinate appointments. Even if you could, you'd need someone to assist them. It's a multi-faceted problem."

(Continued on Page 2)

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PCs pass Bill 2 despite Wildrose opposition

By STAFF WRITERS

The PC government recently passed Bill 2, The Responsible Energy Act, and denied a number of the opposition parties' proposed amendments to protect landowner rights.

Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills Wildrose MLA Shayne Saskiw says he tried to push the concerns of local landowners, farmers and ranchers with a number of amendments in a near 24-hour legislative session that he believes were "exceptionally reasonable," but the PC government refused to accommodate the requests.

"We asked for them to restore the landowners' rights to appeal to the environmental appeals board. Second, we asked for them to have the appeal rights if a project is on their land, to have an independent right of appeal. Also, we added a part to include public interest in the decision-making process, so the regulator would have to look at public interest," Saskiw said, adding the Wildrose also proposed an amendment to limit the availability of personal information to certain circumstances.

"We could have had a bill that I think everyone could be happy with, the industry, landowners and people with environmental concerns."

Bill 2 aims to create a single regulator in Alberta to streamline approvals for coal, gas and oilsands projects, which the Wildrose agreed is important in response to requests from industry. However, the bill would eliminate legal provisions to be heard when an energy company wants to do something on private property or when industry issues, such as a pipeline leak, take place on private property, critics charge.

In an interview with *The St. Paul Journal*, Alberta Energy Minister Ken Hughes said that the goal of the bill is to create a more effective and efficient process.

"It also creates greater participation rights for landowners than existed previously," he said, adding the bill will require the regulator to inform landowners about develop-

ment that directly and adversely affects them, and that it must also give public notice about development, which was previously not required.

Saskiw argued that the way the bill is currently written, it would see landowners taking up appeals with the regulator who made the initial decision. He expects "a ton of tension between landowners and industry."

"The big issue here is that we of course support streamlining regulations and the single regulator idea, but not at the expense of landowners and landowner rights," Saskiw said. "My instinct tells me that like other legislation in the past, people are going to get mad and the government is going to eventually cave and add these landowner rights. We are going to keep fighting and fighting until they do."

Alternate transportation

(Continued from Front Page)

Anderson noted that a third of the proceeds from the Grandparents' Day celebration goes toward the operation of the bus, as does a grant for that purpose from the County of St. Paul, while the Town of Elk Point pays for maintenance, and the Auxiliary fundraises.

Most of Tung's trips are to St. Paul, due to his busy schedule, "and I only take the bus for people with mobility issues." He added that a program would require 1.5 dedicated drivers, who

might or might not have any patients to transport on a given day. The pilot project would include grant funding, and "A grant is nice, but you always have to match it. There's always a catch," he noted.

"We're already doing the best we can," Fraess said. "A grant is not going to help."

Short staffed

Area manager Leanne Betts reported that the Elk Point Healthcare Centre recently had nurses unable to come to work because they were ill, "and we had to close all but one active care bed. One of the sick nurses is back now, and one of the LPNs will become a RN, and will be starting in mid-December."

"We have no replace-

ments here. If we have two nurses sick, that's a third of our staff, and we don't have causal staff we can call in." Betts noted that the facility has to have a RN for the emergency department at all times.

The facility could have up to six part time workers, "That's what we need to cover shifts," but can't find any, which Betts says, "Is an issue absolutely everywhere."

The Northern Alberta Development Council offers bursaries for nursing students willing to work north of the North Saskatchewan River for a year following their graduation. Tung noted, "Alberta Health should talk to the NADC," he suggested.

Flu clinics

Community health nurse Mona McGinnis reported that about 600 doses of flu vaccine had been administered at the local flu clinics, in addition to those administered at the two pharmacies, with no cost to those who receive it. The FluMist nasal spray was originally only offered for children, but is now available to the general public, she said.

The flu clinics are now over, but the vaccine is still available at the health unit and pharmacies, she noted.

In other community health programs, the early childhood development

mapping program report is to be released in December. A total of 27 births have been recorded in the health unit area, and school immunization programs for grades five through nine are wrapping up.

Sidewalk complete

Betts reported that the sidewalk between the Healthcare Centre and Heritage Lodge "is in and has been used. The residents are happy with it."

Locum accommodation

Town council has a concern with accommodation for locum doctors, Fraess told the committee. "We would like to find out the cost of furnishing the locum suite to modern standards. Who do we ask about it?"

Margaret Modin had offered to talk to one of the locums, but found he had already left. Betts has talked to another, who "has not complaints" with the facility as it is.

"There's no problem finding locums, as long as the doctors put in their request well in advance, except in case of an emergency," Tung noted. Regarding the comfort of the accommodations, "Some don't care, some do. If it's a good experience, they spread the word around, we need to make it a home away from home for them."

Betts said there was "no issue" with updating the suite, provided no construction was required, and volunteered to check what was needed. Healthcare Centre Auxiliary president Bernice Capjack noted that the auxiliary has some funding available for such a project.

Other reports came from Anderson regarding the Health Advisory Council meeting the previous week and from Easthope, who reported on behalf of the FCSS that names would be accepted beginning this week for potential recipients of Santas Anonymous assistance.

Elk Point & District Ag. Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Horizon Room, A.G. Ross Arena



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Thursday, December 6*		Elk Point Community Health Services, 5310 50 Avenue, Elk Point
*Appt required for Nov 21st - Dec 6th. Call clinic for appt. 780-724-3532	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

For more info, including local clinic details, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or call Health Link Alberta at 1.866.408.5465 (LINK).

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Surface lease agreements de-mystified

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Area farmers and acreage owners had the opportunity to get new insight into the complicated topic of surface lease agreements last week, when the Assistant Farmers' Advocate for land and energy, Carol Goodfellow, came to Elk Point.

Approximately 20 rural residents from as far away as Two Hills attended the session, which focused on what they needed to know before they sign a surface rights agreement.

"Who owns the land?" Goodfellow asked. "You own the solid part on the surface, the government owns the holes in the Swiss cheese under it." The owner of mineral title owns "the effluent that is in those holes," such as oil or natural gas, and has the right to explore for and produce those minerals, she said.

Goodfellow outlined the steps in the lease process, which begins with a seismic survey.

Landowners were told they could refuse access for geophysical testing, unless it is for carbon capture storage. The Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act of 2010 amended the Surface Rights Act, and with the exception of for carbon capture storage, a seismic operator cannot access the land without the landowner's consent. "If you as a landowner don't agree, they can't come on it."

When landowners do permit seismic exploration, Goodfellow urged that they

insist on water well testing prior to and subsequent to that event, as wells are sometimes adversely affected.

Goodfellow introduced participants to the standard surface lease agreement, explaining each portion and answering a variety of questions on everything from well spacing to reclamation.

She noted that surface leases are "inherited by purchase or succession, with the new owners bound by them." Where the surface lease involves property where an agricultural lease exists, "the occupant is considered the owner, because the occupant suffers the damages" resulting from seismic exploration or resource extraction.

Sometimes, Goodfellow noted, "Company A might sublet something, say, part of a road, to Company B. Company B would compensate Company A but the landowner would not be compensated, nor is notification required."

Goodfellow explained what happens if a lease continues to produce beyond the time frame of the lease. Leases contain a rollover clause, "but it would be to your benefit to negotiate a new lease in its entirety."

The various aspects of compensation were outlined, including entry fee, land value, initial nuisance, inconvenience and noise, loss of use of the land, adverse affect on the landowner's operation and other relevant factors to be considered. Fencing, roadways and topsoil storage are also sometimes written into a lease.

"Make informed decisions," Goodfellow

urged landowners, noting that "You have 48 hours to decide whether to sign the lease."

If lease negotiations fail, the company can apply to the Surface Rights Board for a right-of-entry order, in which case a Surface Rights Board hearing will be set to determine the compensation.

Once a lease is in place, the lessee is to provide the landowner with a notice every five years regarding renegotiation of annual rental. "If industry doesn't comply, the onus is on you (to contact the lessee)."

At such time the lease runs out or is reclaimed, the company usually discharges the caveat on the property, Goodfellow said. "Mostly, companies operate in good faith, but a small percentage create larger chal-

lenges."

The ramifications of Bill 2, the Responsible Energy Development Act, which was still under lengthy debate in the Alberta legislature, also came under discussion. Goodfellow was noncommittal regarding the bill, which she said was "Not good, bad, or other."

One change under Bill 2 would be that the Energy Resources Conservation Board would issue reclamation certificates, "And there is some concern that the ERCB would also hear appeals (on reclamation)."

Another recent development is the ERCB's announcement of mandatory setbacks for development around abandoned or reclaimed wells, "and it is paramount that you know where they are."

County moving ahead on Ashmont upgrade

By JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

County of St. Paul Council passed a motion at last week's monthly council meeting to proceed with a detailed design of the Ashmont Water Treatment plant upgrade, as per the approval of the treatment plan by Alberta Environment.

"This Water Treatment Plant will be built to meet future demands for the hamlets of Ashmont, Lottie Lake and possibly Mallaig and improve the finished water quality," according to the November council meeting agenda package.

A cost analysis to build a line from Spedden to Ashmont for the transmission of EPCOR water was also conducted, but in the end, council decided upgrading the Ashmont treatment plant will be more economical.

Coun. Glen Ockerman wanted assurance that there will be enough water to supply Mallaig with water in the future without another large upgrade to the plant. CAO Sheila Kitz responded by saying the footprint of the building would not increase, although some modifications would have to be made.

Another well would have to be drilled and new filters would have to be installed, but the size of the treatment plant would remain the same.

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(Continued on Page 5)



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Capsule Comments

by Your Natural Choice Apple Drugs pharmacist, Chris Letawsky



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- The "morning-after pill" is 89% effective if taken up to 72 hours after intercourse. It is available in pharmacies across Canada without a prescription. Our pharmacist staff can talk to you about this product.
- Chest discomfort is not a symptom of a stroke. It could be a sign of a heart attack, though. Stroke symptoms include weakness, confusion and difficulty speaking, confusion, vision problems, headache and dizziness or loss of balance. Call 911 immediately and you will greatly improve your chances of survival and recovery.
- The popular "liberation treatment" for Multiple Sclerosis has not proved that effective. Newfoundland recently did a study on those who had the therapy and concluded that the treatment resulted in no real permanent positive outcomes.
- It's important to be an advocate for your own health. Be an active learner about all health matters and treatments, including the drugs you take. We can help you with this information.



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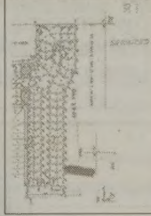
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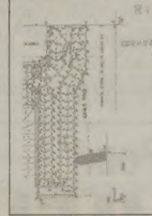
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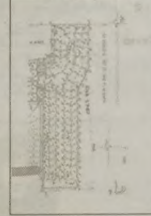
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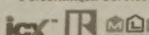
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EDITORIAL

Payback time

After a rather dismal Christmas Extravaganza in 2011, the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce is back on track with this year's event.

The Winter Wonderland parade, cancelled last year due to lack of interest (or perceived lack of interest) is back, with a large number of businesses indicating that they will take part. Sponsorship is coming in, new volunteers have come forward, and a new venue was found for a longtime event, the craft sale, which had no home this year due to school renovations.

Businesses, volunteers and community groups have worked hard to put this together. Let's pay them back by getting out there and enjoying every minute of this very special evening as we welcome the Christmas season.

WAY BACK WHEN...

Elk herd, stolen signs, next step

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 27 IN...

1987

The Elk Point area became home to the first herd of elk in recorded history as Marvin Ference started his Elk Point Game Ranch herd with seven head. The long hoped-for purchase of Dome Petroleum by Amoco Canada would be "a major step in the recovery of the oil and gas industry," Amoco's vice president of production Sherrold Moore told the chamber of commerce when he came to announce that 35 new wells would be drilled in the Lindbergh field, with a similar project at Soars Lake to get underway the following year.

1992

It was "the moment we've been waiting for, for a long, long time," Elk Point Hospital Board chair John Mohyluk said following an announcement by the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Minister of Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services and MLA John Drobot that the board could now put their long term care addition and renovations to tender. One of three local briefs presented to the NADC also dealt with the addition, with the others dealing with doctor recruitment and the effectiveness of the Lakeland Tourist Association.

1997

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce named E-Can Oilfield Services their Business of the Year, noting that it is one of Elk Point's own success stories, growing from a very small operation in the early 1980s to well over 100 trucks, here and in other areas of the province. RCMP was targeting the culprits who stole traffic signs, noting that there would be zero tolerance for theft or defacing of the signs, due to the potential risk for increased accidents where signs are missing or unreadable.

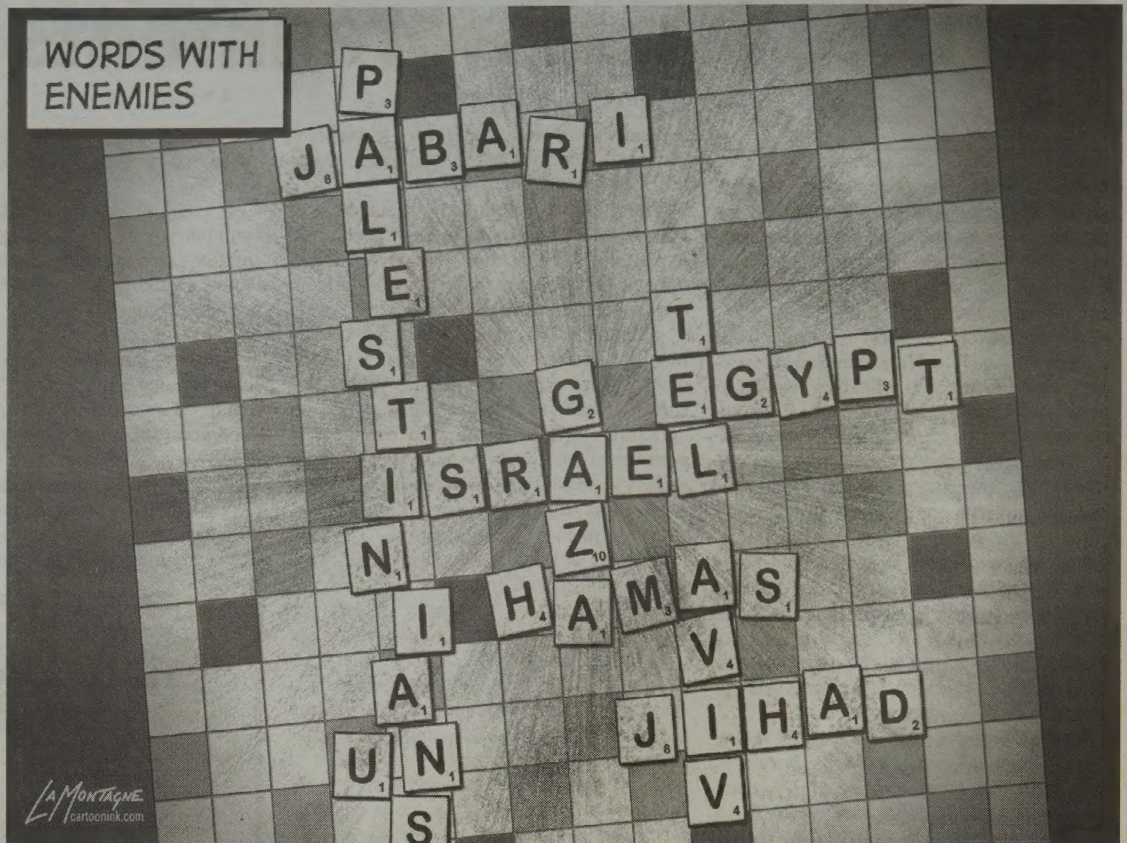
2002

Charges were laid after a fatal oil tanker rollover near Whitney Lake that occurred when the truck driver swerved to avoid a vehicle that turned wide coming out of a side road. The A. G. Ross Arena Operating Committee brought Elk Point Chamber of Commerce the exciting news that the AOC would host a trade show in April 2003.

2007

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce took the next step toward making their planned eco centre a reality, as they formed a building committee whose first job would be to determine the method of construction. Representatives of the County of St. Paul met with Agriculture and Food Minister George Groenewald to relay local concerns regarding the crisis in the livestock industry, where plummeting prices left some producers with no option but to sell their herds because they could not afford to feed them.

WORDS WITH ENEMIES



GUEST COLUMN

Christmas trees

Have you ever asked yourself the following questions: "Why do we have Christmas trees?" "Who had the first one?" Some of you may say: "It's a custom. A custom that started long, long ago, in Germany." Actually the first Christmas trees were not decorated at all and they weren't pine trees. Long, long ago, in the 700s a monk named Boniface chopped down an oak tree. He was angry because people thought the oak was sacred, and he wanted to show them they were wrong. When the oak fell, it crushed everything in its path. Everything that is, except a small fir sapling. Boniface said the survival of the little sapling was a miracle. So, for many years after, people planted fir saplings to celebrate Christmas. They didn't bring them inside and decorate them as we do now.

The story now continues. It now involves Martin Luther. It was a cold winter's afternoon in the dense German forest. Martin Luther did not notice the sun slowly setting and the sky growing dark. His thoughts were on the sermon he was preparing. The forest soon came alive with the night sounds of owls, wolves, and other wild creatures. Martin Luther shivered. He pulled his cloak tighter around his shoulders. Then he quickened his pace, saying a little prayer for comfort as he went. The forest grew darker. Martin Luther scurried along, continuing to pray that he would not cross paths with a wild animal. He glanced up to see the night sky filled with tiny pricks of light, twinkling blue and silver. What could they be? "Stars!" Martin Luther said suddenly, as he realized what he was seeing. "Lights from Heaven to guide and comfort me, just as a star led the Wise Men to the stable that first Christmas. What a splendid theme for

my sermon." Martin Luther smiled up at the twinkling sky. He was no longer afraid. Feeling safer, Martin Luther

looked around for a small tree he could take home for Christmas. He found a young fir tree, pulled it up, and dragged it with him through the forest. At long last Martin Luther was safe at home. He quickly prepared the little fir tree. Soon Martin Luther called his family in, so he could tell them about his long walk through the dark and dangerous forest. Everyone gasped at the sight of the little

fir tree, for it was customary to hang Christmas trees upside-down from the ceiling beams and leave them undecorated. Yet, Martin Luther had placed this little tree upright in a pot, high on the table. The candles had been removed from the triangle shaped holder. Martin Luther explained to his family: "Just as I was getting very frightened, I saw the stars twinkling through the trees as if God was saying, 'Don't be afraid, for I am with you.'" And that's when I realized the theme for my sermon. God's light shines through the darkest night for everyone, but sometimes we have to look up to see it."

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,

How lovely are your branches

So green and bright in summer time

As well as winter's snowy clime,

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

How lovely are your branches.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,

Much pleasure doth thou bring me.

For every year the Christmas tree,

Brings to us all both joy and glee.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,

Much pleasure doth thou bring me.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,

Thy candles shine out brightly.

Each bough doth hold its tiny light,

That makes each toy to sparkle bright.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,

They candles shine out brightly.

deanna
EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk



The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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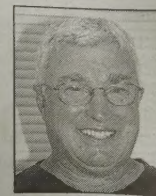
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Vicki Brooker
EDITOR



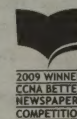
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.

Canada

County moving ahead on Ashmont upgrade

(Continued from Page 3)

Coun. Glen Ockerman wanted assurance that there will be enough water to supply Mallaig with water in the future without another large upgrade to the plant. CAO Sheila Kitz responded by saying the footprint of the building would not increase, although some modifications would have to be made.

Another well would have to be drilled and new filters would have to be installed, but the size of the treatment plant would remain the same.

The Water for Life grant program has advised the county to apply for the next phase of the project, which is to bring water to Mallaig, in the spring.

St. Vincent

Traffic speeding through the community of St. Vincent on Hwy 881 north was again discussed at this month's council meeting.

Although the county has requested changing the speed limit prior to entering the community from 100 km/hour to 70 km/hour, the province had denied that request when it was made a couple years ago. The county will again make the request.

Residents in the community are concerned about safety, heard council. Plans to install a solar powered crosswalk sign and a painted crosswalk on the road are moving forward, said Kitz.

Kitz said Alberta Transportation has made a commitment to introducing a painted crosswalk in the hamlet. "In addition, we are working toward having crosswalk lighting for the sides of the road to alert the travelling public when someone is crossing."

The province has also agreed to install signs notifying trucks to avoid the use of Jake brakes in the hamlet.

Pink Hearts

Helen Chapdelaine with the Pink Heart Campaign took time to speak to council last week and requested the county purchase pink hearts to place on county vehicles, to show support for the three families affected by the Oct. 25 tragedy at Racette School.

"It has gone wild, just like wild fire," said Chapdelaine of the campaign, noting that as of the Nov. 20 council meeting, \$46,000 has been raised by the Pink Heart Campaign.

Following the delegation, council agreed to support the campaign by purchasing about 100 pink hearts for the county's vehicles. Council also agreed to donate an item to an auction on Dec. 9, which is also raising funds to help support the affected families.

Murphy Road

The county will be looking to garner support from the M.D. of Bonnyville and the province for improvements to Murphy Road, which is a road used by a high number of oil traffic, coming and going to the M.D. of Bonnyville, east of Elk Point.

It is a heavily used road with about 1,000 vehicles per day on it, said Kitz after the meeting. The road was paved a number of years ago with a Resource Road Program from the province and at the time it was expected the road would last a few years longer than it has.

"The pavement has deteriorated and is no longer structurally sound due to the cracks... from moderate to severe, and rutting on both northbound and southbound lanes," explained the CAO. The estimate for a new overlay on the road is \$7 million.

Under the Resource Road Grant rules, a municipality is only eligible for funding every two years and the county already has a project on the book, with the paving of five miles of the Northern Valley Road and some accesses to CNRL plants.

"Council has directed administration to request

from Alberta Transportation to see if they would consider an application this year due to the safety factors along the road and the heavy use of road for industry," said Kitz. If the county was successful, the province would fund 75 per cent of the project.

Coun. Glen Ockerman said he believes the road should have provincial jurisdiction as a secondary highway, which would also include the plowing of snow in the winter. Council agreed that the M.D. of Bonnyville should help push the potential project forward and help advocate for provincial designation of the road.

So far, the province hasn't committed to anything but the county has conducted a study on the road. Even if a resource road grant was approved, Ockerman questioned where the county would find the remaining funds it would need to complete the project.

RCMP

Elk Point RCMP members Sgt. Dave Casey and Cpl. Roy Auger took time to introduce themselves to council last week. Casey is new in his position as the new detachment commander in Elk Point.

Casey spoke briefly about staffing at the detachment and the positions that exist for the First Nations communities in the area. He noted that the positions in Frog Lake were eliminated but he wants to work toward filling those positions again. There is also one position in

Fishing Lake that is "up in the air."

"We are fully staffed at the moment... but it's ever changing," said Casey, adding, his main goal is to keep residents safe.

Medevac

Following a letter of support sent to the prime minister, premier and local MP to use CFB Namao as the new landing site for northern Medevac flights, the County of St. Paul received a response stating the location will not be used in this manner.

The letter from Premier

Redford said the Edmonton International Airport is the only facility with the necessary infrastructure for medevac.

Council passed a motion to send a letter requesting the province provide rotary wing service from the International Airport to the hospitals rather than offloading this service to STARS. The county will also request other municipalities do the same.

Land Use Bylaw

First readings of Bylaws No. 1610 and No. 1611 were repealed by council and will

go through a legal review before coming back to council. Public meetings that had been scheduled during last week's regular council meeting were cancelled and will be held at a later day, once the revisions are complete and first reading of the revised bylaws are passed.

CAO Sheila Kitz said it was determined that passing first reading of the bylaws was premature and planning staff had only had a preliminary look at the documents before they were presented to council.

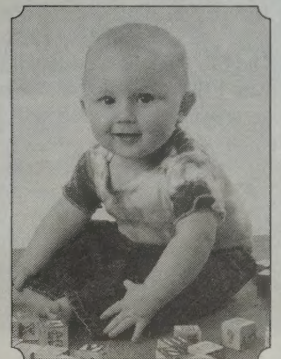
(Continued on Page 11)

Beautiful Babies

of the year

2012

SAMPLE AD



It's the Elk Point Review's
Annual Salute to the

BEAUTIFUL BABIES OF THE YEAR!

In our New Year's edition, Jan. 1, 2013, we will celebrate babies born in the year 2012 by placing them in our paper for only

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Baby's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
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PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS MARKED ON THE BACK OF THE PICTURE
~ PHOTOS MAY BE PICKED UP AFTER PUBLICATION ~



Notice of Annual General Meeting

of the Members of St. Paul Municipal
Seed Cleaning Association Ltd.

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

7:30 pm

St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Plant

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Annual Meeting of the Members of St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Association Ltd. will be held at the St. Paul Municipal Seed Plant at St. Paul, in the Province of Alberta, on **Tuesday, the 4th day of December, 2012, at 7:30 pm** for the following purposes.

1. To receive the financial statements of the Association for the financial yearend;
2. To elect Directors of the Association;
3. To appoint an Auditor of the Association;
4. To amend or accept amendments of By-laws;
5. To transact such other business, if any, as may properly come before the meeting.

DATED at St. Paul, in the Province of Alberta, this 20th day of November, A.D. 2012.

St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Association Ltd.

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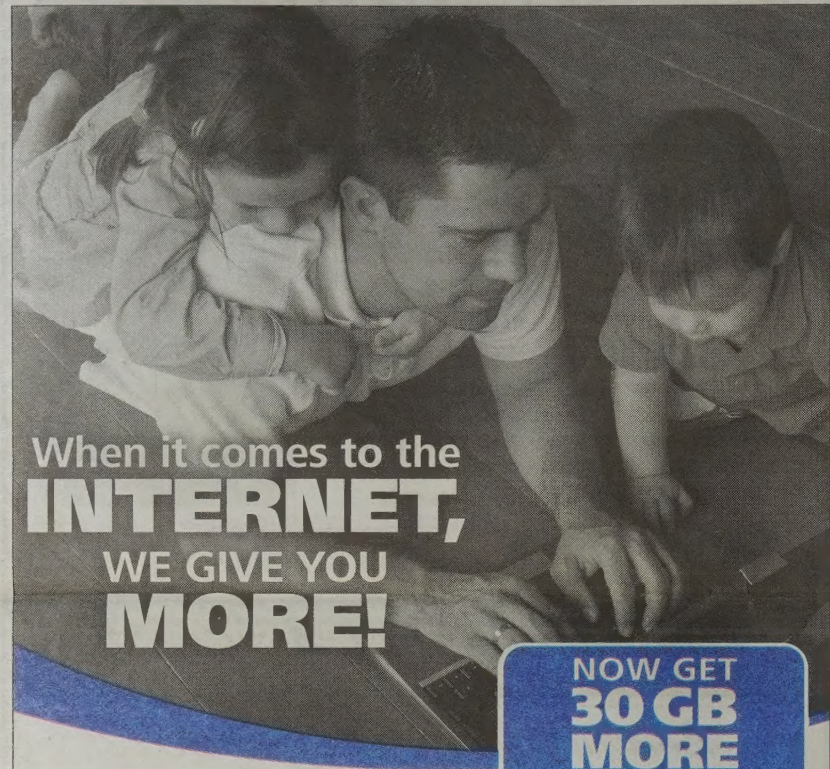


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Elk Point Chamber of Commerce president Debra McQuinn (third from left) welcomes (left to right) operations managers Cindy Rosychuk and Stu Barthelette, EMT Alix Knight, paramedics Marc Moebis and Lisa Love and general manager Rob Hargreaves



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Prairie EMS meets business community

By **VICKI BROOKER**
 Review Staff

Management and staff of the Elk Point division of Prairie EMS proudly showed off their brand-new facility to the local business community on Thursday with a noon hour burger barbecue and tours of the spacious ambulance bay and living quarters.

The new ambulance providers took over provision of Elk Point and area's emergency medical transport needs in June, and with their arrival, brought 24-hour, seven-days-a-week Advanced Life Support (ALS) service to the community.

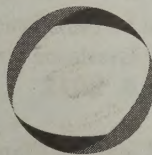
(Continued on Page 11)



Vicki Brooker photos

Elk Point & District Ag. Society Livestock Division
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, December 4, 2012
 7:00 p.m. at CG Baker Arena
 Everyone Welcome!

Paramedic Marc Moebis proudly shows off the latest addition to the Prairie EMS fleet, a shiny new state-of-the-art ambulance based in the firm's equally new and well equipped facility in downtown Elk Point.



HEALTH SERVICES PREFERENTIAL ACCESS INQUIRY

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Honourable John Z. Vertes, Commissioner of the Health Services Preferential Access Inquiry, will hold Public Hearings in Edmonton and Calgary on the dates and at the locations listed below. The purpose of these hearings is to receive evidence pertinent to the terms of reference of the inquiry.

EDMONTON

December 3, 4, 5 & 6 and 10, 11, 12 & 13 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
 Salon 12, The Shaw Conference Centre,
 9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 1N9

CALGARY

January 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 and 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
 Room # E1, Macleod Hall (Lower Level)
 The Telus Conference Centre, 120 – 9th Avenue S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 0P3

Any additional information regarding the public hearings will be posted on the Commission's website: www.healthaccessinquiry.ca.

Health Services Preferential Access Inquiry
 Phone 403.270.2059 Fax 403.270.2084
www.healthaccessinquiry.ca

104 – 1240 Kensington Rd NW, P.O. Box 410, Calgary, AB T2N 3P7



FGM Crusaders support for Operation Christmas Child

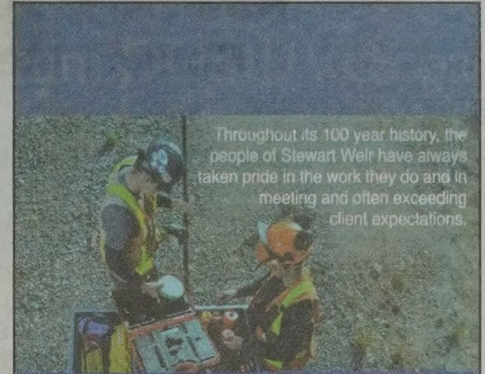
For 13 years now, Crusader Santas have been filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and putting smiles on the faces of children all over the world - from Easter Island to Mexico! Over those 13 years, F. G. Miller High has collected 655 shoeboxes - that means 655 squeals of joy! Our Santas this year were: Dayle Oster, Kira Brunner, Kelly Sam, the James Capjack family, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Sibal, the 11 C Class, Moira McFarlane and Savannah Lawrence, Jagger Harrison, Hayley Vinge, Andee Dion, Mrs. Bower-Gagne, Taylor Cochrane, Nicole Plunkie and Cheyenne Lawrence, Skyler Harrison, Mr. Hoyle, Daniel Jacula, Madison MacDonald, Ashley Bristow, Danielle Leckey, Kaylee Poitras, Britney Heathcote, the Wood family, Hannah Ganske, the Boorse family, the Loughran family, the Krider (Donna) family, the Bjorkman families, Amy Harms, Gloria Lecopoy, Miss Sloan, Shelby and Mandy Berg and Vicki Brooker with various Crusaders donating items to add to existing shoeboxes. Our total for this year was 60 shoeboxes which were taken to the Elk Point Baptist Church to join the envoy of the remainder of the Elk Point and district shoeboxes headed out to the Calgary collection center.

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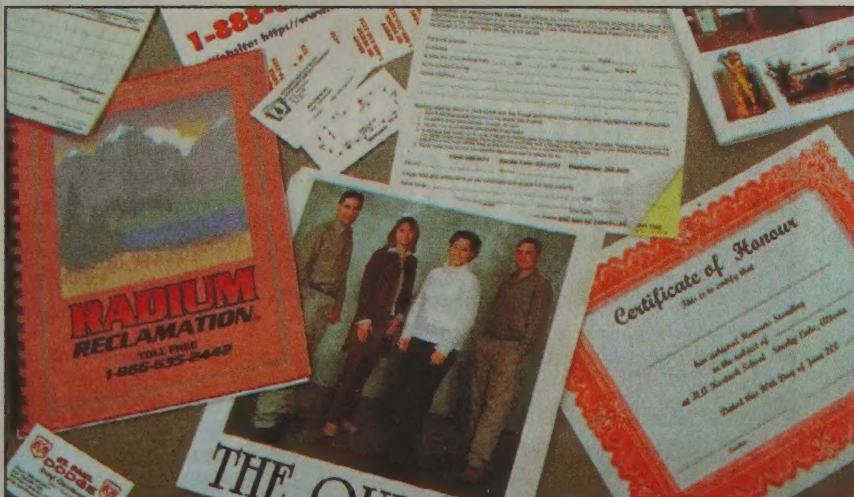
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COUNTY OF ST. PAUL No.19



HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2012

Council Meeting

Strategic Planning - Council approved the 2013 Strategic Business Plan. The Strategic Plan provides Council's priority direction to administration in moving the county forward in achieving the vision and can be viewed on the County website at www.county.stpaul.ab.ca.

Bylaws - Council gave second and third reading to rezoning Bylaws to amend the Land Use Bylaw 1486. Bylaw No. 1609 is to rezone Lot 2, Block 1, Plan 1024942 in PSE 17-58-9-W4 from Urban Expansion to Country Residential (2) and Bylaw No. 1609 to rezone PSE 32-56-5-W4 from Agricultural to Industrial/Commercial.

Ashmont Water Treatment Plan/Transmission Line - The Ashmont/Lottie Lake Transmission water line is complete and contractors are completing the work that will allow the movement of water from Ashmont to Lottie Lake by the new year. Alberta Transportation has given the County approval to proceed with detailed design to upgrade the Ashmont Water Treatment Plant. The Water treatment plant will be built to meet future demands for the hamlets of Ashmont, Lottie Lake and Mallaig and improve the finished water quality.

New Equipment - The Public Works Department will be getting quotes to replace two motor graders and to purchase a rubber tire excavator, skid steer and scissor lift. The equipment will be ordered immediately in order to secure pricing for delivery in 2013.

Organizational Meeting - Council agreed that all the committee appointments will remain the same as last year. Remuneration rates will increase from \$0.50 to \$0.52 for mileage which will be consistent with provincial rates. Lodging rates will remain at \$195 per night unless the actual hotel rate is higher, then reimbursement will be based on the actual receipts.

70 km/hr Speed Signs in St. Vincent - In an attempt to slow down the traffic travelling through the Hamlet of St. Vincent and increase safety for the local residents, Council worked with Alberta Transportation to move the 50 km/hr speed zones out to the edge of the Hamlet. Administration is working with Alberta Transportation on the installation of a cross walk in the hamlet north of township road 600 in the spring of 2013. As well, Administration has requested that signs be installed on the outskirts of the hamlet regarding avoiding the use of Jake brakes. Council resolved to submit another request to Alberta Transportation to add a minimum of a 200 meter 70 km/hr speed zone on both the north and the south side of the Hamlet of St. Vincent.

FCSS - Thank you to everyone who took part in the Fall High Tea in Ashmont. This event was sponsored in part by the Federal Government in honor of the Queen's Jubilee. It was a huge success with over 46 participants. Speakers for the event included MP Brian Storseth, MLA Shayne Saskiw, and Reeve Steve Upham. FCSS is looking forward to hosting their annual Christmas Gala on November 29th in Elk Point.

Funding - \$500 for MS Walk

- \$112,300 MSI Operational Funding distributed to Ag Societies and Community Halls throughout the Municipality

We are requesting that when residents are clearing their driveway and push the snow across the road, that they do not leave ridges on the road as this is a safety issue.

Residents who require snow removal on their driveways can purchase flags from the County at the Administration Office, Public Works, or the Town of Elk Point Administration Office.

Christmas Hours - The County Office will be closed December 25 to 28, 2012 and January 1, 2013.

For more information contact
Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul
at 780-645-3301, ext. 208.

Micro Novice game a crowd-pleaser

By DOUG BASSETT
Review Sports

The grandparents have been waiting patiently in anticipation all year for this and it finally happened. The first home game of the season for our Micro Novice Avalanche this past weekend on Saturday. Some of these guys and girls have just started playing this year, so this was their first game ever, but you would never know it by watching them. Sure they fall down, but they get right back up and carry on. And of course they don't always line up on the right side of the puck, but that just part of the fun watching this barrel of monkeys. And how about this monkey, "King Kong Konner" Poitras who really looked great when he was in net as the goaltender stopping the puck, but you wouldn't want to lose his offense skills, he and Kade Fontaine with a hat trick each. Look out here he comes, the "Spiderman" Sam Rogal scaling down the ice with two. He's very little, in fact his sweater almost drags on the ice, but Gavin Kadutski has this game figured out, Gavin was always ready with the one timer, he buried one. Cash "CC" Capjack doing a nice job of shutting down the attack on the blue line, but jumped right up into the play helping the boys every time, cashing in with two helpers. And good old "St Nick" Nicholas Penner doing a great job moving the puck with a helper as well.

The Atom B team has had a tough go of it most of the time this year, in fact a lot of their games have ended in blowouts; but if they continue to play like they did this

past Saturday that may be coming to an end, because they played the best game they have had all year, losing this one by a close 3 to 1 the final. Erin Duffee sliding one home, Jenna "Precious" Poitras digging in the corner sending a gem of a pass out front. "Sexy Slader" Hardcastle was between the posts and scrambled around doing an exceptional job. Jace Stafford, the "Stafford Streak" logged some major ice time on defense, it seemed like he was on the ice the whole game, getting the green light; he carried the puck time after time from our end into the opposition zone. First time hockey player, Colby McQuinn showed lots of hustle and great improvement in his skating in this game, especially from the beginning of the year.

The Atom A team has had some tough outings themselves this year and played right after, facing the league leading tier one team from Consort. When you first looked at Consort in the warm up, they looked almost as small as a novice team, and you wouldn't think they had much, but this team could really fly once they dropped the puck. Connor "Coast to Coast" Lychak, Evan Ockerman and the little spark plug "Lightning Liam" Ludlage all scoring, "Raging Paige" Henderson, "Little Angel" Charlie Rogal, Devon "Naz" Nazarchuk and "Sam I Am" Henderson with the assists. The "B Train" goaltender Colton Van Maarion was pulling another big load, carrying a lot of weight for the team in this game like he has all year, but he never even geared down for the hills. A

respectable 6 to 3 the final score for Consort.

Friday night the Atom As traveled to Vermilion and were winning until the third period when they ran out of gas, losing by a close 7 to 5. A hat trick for "Coast to Coast", the brother and sister act "Raging Paige" and "Sam I am" also lighting the lamp. Two assists for "Lightning Liam", "Naz" and Dylan "the Destroyer" Ference also with assists.

The Pee wee Avalanche traveled to Mannville on Saturday and came home with a five-all tie. Team captain "Awesome Alex" Hunter hitting the target for four of the five goals for the Avalanche. The "big O" Brody Odgaard waltzing right in and blasting one.

On Grey Cup Sunday the Pee wee Avalanche played an exhibition game at home against St. Paul and literally pulled this one out of the bag in the last minute and a half. With only 1:32 on the clock in the third period team captain "Awesome Alex" scored what turned out to be the winner, assisted by Nicholas Tucker. This game could have gone either way. Back and forth for most of the game in fact the Avalanche trailed most of the game by one or two goals and only in the final minute did they push the panic button, score the winner and added two insurance goals. Lots of action for air horn in this one, the final 11 to 8. Hat tricks for the "Big O" and the "Dust Pan" Dustyn Pankiw, two for "Awesome Alex" including the winner, Nicholas Tucker kicking in with one and three assists including assisting on the winner. Both of these new guys are showing major improvements in their games, one goal for the second year in hockey player Tyler Jamieson and playing in only his first year of organized hockey Christian Castle-Wassan with one as well. Chad "Pick Pocket" Poitras picking up two helpers, "Michelin Man" Parker Allen with a couple of assists, blue liner Warren Ference on the board with three assists, Hayden "Hot wheels" Ludlage and Kaiden "K Rock" Evans-Anderson both with assists. Between the pipes, in his goaltending debut this season, Spencer Hardcastle did a suburb job. Over in Bonnyville our Novice Avalanche team played absolutely awesome all weekend in a tournament held there, so good in fact that they ended up in the A final out of twelve teams. A 7 to 5 win on Friday night against the host, "Skywalker" Luke Poulin with a hat trick, "Mic Jager" Fontaine with two, Avery "Whirlwind" Warawa and Odin "the Wall" Smith with one each, "Bazooka Joe" Cardinal with an assist.

(Continued on Page 9)

Christmas at LICA
"Open House"
December 5, 2012 • 4 pm - 7 pm
At the LICA Office
5107 50 St., Box 8237, Bonnyville, AB T9N 2J5
1 (780) 812-2182 • www.lica.ca

You are warmly invited to celebrate the season with
Lakeland Industry & Community Association!
This event is an opportunity for the public to meet LICA board members, staff, volunteers, and industry representatives and discuss resource development in our region. Please join us for festive snacks and refreshments in good company!



Vicki Brooker photo

Married 70 years

Olga and Paul Musiyowski celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last week, and shared their anniversary cake with fellow residents of Heritage Lodge.



Vicki Brooker photo

Community contributes to Royal Canadian Legion

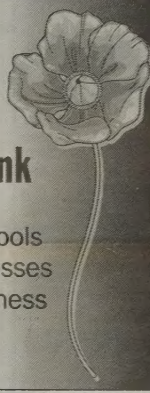
Elk Point Review advertising manager Melanie McRae presents a \$355 cheque to St. Paul Royal Canadian Legion representative Del Smith. The donation came from the 71 businesses, organizations and individuals who placed poppies in the Review's Nov. 6 issue in tribute to all those who served their country in wartime and subsequent peacekeeping missions.



The St. Paul Legion Branch 100

Wishes to thank

the Elk Point Review,
the Elk Point businesses, schools
and citizens, Heinsburg businesses
& schools and Lindbergh business
for their loyal support
for Remembrance Day.



Announcements

OBITUARY

BROWN, Gary



On November 21, 2012, Mr. Gary Brown of Elk Point passed away at the age of 48 years. He is survived by his loving mother, Christina Brown of Elk Point; 2 brothers & 2 sisters & their families, Sherry (Larry) Petruk of Edmonton & their children, Derek, Matthew (Krysta), Gregory, Michael & Kimberley, Glen Brown of Elk Point, Neil (Nancy) Brown of Edmonton & children, Taylor & Alexander, Connie (Malcolm) Bigam of Ashmont & children, Corey & Nolan. He was predeceased by his father, Edward. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel, St. Paul. Pastor Kelly Sibley will be officiating with inurnment in St. Michael's Cemetery, Lac Bellevue. If desired, donations may be made to Elk Point Fire Department or a charity of one's choice c/o 5626 51-Street, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A1. To send condolences online, please visit www.gracegardensfuneralchapel.com.

Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel, Box 1780, St. Paul, AB 780-645-2677.

CHURCH SERVICES

Elk Point Baptist Church
5705 - 49 St., Elk Point
Pastor Jim MacLellan
Pastor Jason Goulet
Family Worship Service
Sundays - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
Call 724-4194 for more information
or see our Website:
www.elkpointbaptistchurch.org

St. Vladimirs' Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Elk Point
For service times,
call 645-5156, St. Paul.

United Church of Canada
4822 - 50 Ave., Elk Point
724-3616

Services - Sunday 10 a.m.
"Come and Be Welcomed -
Come and Be Nurtured"

Christian Community Church of Elk Point
4829 - 49 Ave. (Old Fire Hall)
Phone 724-4039 or 724-2648

Our Aim:
"To Know, Apply and Share the
Power of Christ"
Worship Service - Sunday 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Pastor Don Ford
(780) 724-4061

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
Father Andrew Schoenberger
Sunday Mass
11:30 a.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park
Weekly Services, 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 2nd and 3rd
Sundays

Bible Fellowship Church Clandonald
Services held every
Sunday at 11 a.m.

Avalanche hockey

(Continued from Page 8)

The first game Saturday the novice had another win, this time 6 to 4 win over Lloydminster. Hat tricks for "Sky Walker" and "Mic Jager" "Bazooka Joe" "setting them up with another assist. In the second game on Saturday against Cold Lake another big win for the Avalanche. Hat tricks once again for "Skywalker" and "Mic" two goals for the "Special Lady" Jadey Capjack, and "the Wall" came crashing down the ice, Odin scoring one too! First year hockey player Kobe Warawa getting right in there mixing it up, with the helper.

Even though they lost on

Sunday to a strong Sherwood Park team our Avalanche put up a gallant effort that made us all very proud of them. "Skywalker" and "Mic" scoring, Dean "the Machine" Ockerman helping out the cause with an assist.

IN MEMORIAM

SENIUK, Steve
Mar. 27, 1944 - Dec. 2, 2006

*Death leaves a heartache,
that no one can heal
Love leaves a memory,
no one can steal.*

Fondly remembered.
Loved and sadly missed.
Carolyn and Family.

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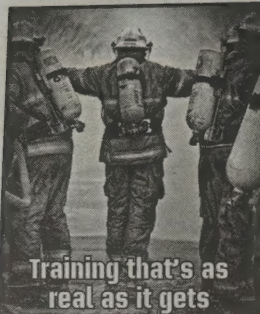
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410. Education/Training



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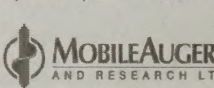
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1040. Careers

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3010. Auctions

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K&K AUCTIONS PRESENTS Antique & Collectible Auction, Estate of Eldon Thompson, Camrose, Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m., Camrose Elks Hall, 4702 - 50 Ave. Info: Doug & Loraine Kennedy 780-679-4142; www.globalauctionguide.com.

3210. Misc. For Sale

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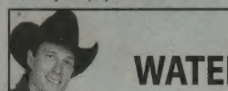
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Lifesaving technology

Paramedic Marc Moebis demonstrates the on-board computer in the new Prairie EMS ambulance that flags the exact location of an emergency and facilitates reaching the site in the fastest possible time, especially helpful for drivers unfamiliar with the area or when an ambulance is called out of the area to assist on other calls.



Prairie EMS

(Continued from Page 6)

"That's new to Elk Point," paramedic Marc Moebis said, noting that the previous provider "only had ALS when Lisa (paramedic Lisa Love) was on duty." ALS service consists of at least one paramedic and one emergency medical technician (EMT-A) while Basic Life Support (BLS) has at least two EMT-As on the ambulance. In addition to the services EMTs can provide, a paramedic can treat heart attack and trauma patients, administer injections and insert breathing tubes.

Moebis was also happy to show off the newest addition to the Prairie EMS fleet, a roomy, well equipped state-of-the-art ambulance that even comes equipped with a portable heart monitor that can transmit information to a city cardiologist for diagnosis. The unit's driver has a computer loaded with mapping programs that show the exact destination on a call, which he says is very convenient to drivers who may not be familiar with the area, and is also "useful when we're doing backup" in another area.

The staff proudly pointed out the bank of storage for ambulance supplies and led tours of their accommodation, which includes a sitting area with comfortable seating and a big-screen television, a fully equipped kitchen and two bedrooms.

"When we do three trips to the city and four in-town calls in one day, like one day last week, we have to have a comfortable place to stay. Our work is very stressful, and we need a place to relax. This is not a company that cuts corners," Moebis said.

The history of emergency service in Elk Point dates back to 1984 for Prairie EMS general manager Rob Hargreaves, who worked for Don Scheuller of Lakeland Ambulance Services. He purchased the service in 1990 and later incorporated it with other services into Prairie EMS, which now has divisions in Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont and Andrew, Two Hills, Saddle Lake, Vermilion and Elk Point.

County council

(Continued from Page 5)

"Upon further in-depth look at the documents, the staff noted several changes that were going to be required in order for it to be the best document for the future," said Kitz in an email, after the meeting. Council also agreed to have a legal review done on the document to ensure the bylaws are not contrary to provincial law or unenforceable. The documents will be brought back to council in the New Year.

NLLS

Council has agreed to the proposed levy increase from the Northern Lights Library System. The levy increase will go from \$4.55 per capita to \$4.78 per capita, which means an increase of \$1,362. The total levy for 2013 would be \$28,321.

The levy will also be in effect for the Municipal Library Board, which essentially means the county will be paying the 23 cent increase twice since the county also funds the library board. If a municipality doesn't have a library board, they automatically pay twice the levy, explained Kitz.

Fire truck

Council carried a motion to support the purchase of a new command unit for St. Paul Fire Chief Trevor Kotowich. The county will support the purchase of the truck with about \$13,000 from next year's budget.

Outside fire departments are interested in purchasing the chief's current truck.

Plan

The 2013 Strategic Plan was approved at last week's meeting. Items such as a detailed public works planning report, equipment purchases, utilities, and core values are detailed in the plan. Target dates for certain actions are also in the document.

This is just a plan, and "plans can change," said Kitz.

Coun. Cliff Martin made the motion to approve the Strategic Plan.

Halls

The county approved the 2012 Recreational Facilities Grant Allocations, which details grants received by local community halls and agricultural societies. The grants remained the same as last year and will continue as such.

Donations

Council will be supporting the New Years Eve Family Benefit event with a silent auction donation and the MS Walk in May of 2012 with a \$500 donation.

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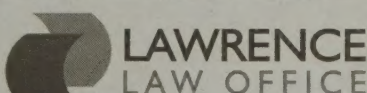
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New technology for Elk Point Elementary

Elk Point Elementary School recently benefitted from the generosity of three area businesses Above, Sandy Smith of Applied Hammer Construction presented Debbie Wood and one of her classes with four iPads. At top right, Robyn Moroziuk of Xtreme Oilfield Technology presented a cheque for \$440, while at right, Clifford Smith of E-Can Oilfield Service presented another \$440. Another donation came from the Pierce family in the form of a \$50 iTunes card to purchase apps for the iPads. Principal Lorne Young called the donations "another example of how phenomenal this community is when it comes to the generosity of its people and businesses and how they continue to help our students and our school."



Invitation to Non-Profit Organizations for MSI Grant Application

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